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Seafaring group needs £3k or faces closure after 60 years



Leader Jon Cox with members of the Sea Cadets, all aged between 10 and 18.

CADETS SEND OUT AN S.O.S

A SEA cadet group that has been running for more than 60 years could close if it cannot raise £3,000.

The Banbury branch, in Bridge Wharf, has seen its running costs rise while its income has remained steady, resulting in the shortfall.

Now parents of some of the 40 members of the branch have formed a Facebook group to help save the cadets.

Leader Jon Cox, who has been in the Sea Cadets since he was 11, said: "Banbury Sea Cadets has always been popular. If we closed, I don't know if the cadets would join any of the others. We do far more activities."

The cadets allows youngsters aged 10 to 18 to try sailing, kayaking, obstacle courses and camping.

But Mr Cox added: "The cost is astronomical these days. Our running costs are £2,500 per month."

The group's rent has gone up by about £250 since last August alone according to Mr Cox.

A large chunk of its income comes from the car park, which is rented out to commuters, but by itself it is not enough.

Unlike the Army Cadets and Air Cadets, the Sea Cadets – one of the UK's oldest youth organisations – does not

Hannah Somerville
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receive funding from the Ministry of Defence.

The Royal Navy provides uniforms and contributes to training, but does not provide funding.

Mr Cox said: "We are used to finding our own funds. And we don't have the objective to recruit people into the Navy or push that as a career."

"It's great to see all the kids coming from different schools and different parts of Banbury, who would have never met. They're always a bit shy and apprehensive, but they work together, swim together and become like a family."

Zoe Lewis, from Kings Sutton, has seen the confidence grow in her daughter Melissa, 10, since she joined the Sea Cadets last October.

She said: "She used to get anxious, and now she has blossomed and can't get enough of it. It's a way of getting out and meeting new people. It's helped Melissa grow as a person. Everyone has commented on how well she has come along. She wants to join the Navy Medical Corps."

After hearing of the Sea Cadets' financial troubles, Mrs Lewis helped launch Friends of Banbury Sea Cadets, a Facebook-based fundraising movement that already has 46 members.

The group has planned a sponsored 10.5-mile walk and is organising a programme of events for the summer, including appearances at Banbury Hobby Horse Festival and Canal Day.

Mr Cox and Mrs Lewis both said they were optimistic the Sea Cadets would be back on its feet in no time.


Mrs Lewis said: "I'm really positive." Visit sea-cadets.org or to join the group, visit <http://tinyurl.com/oywupka>



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Historic relic that was unearthed in cottage to be sold

A TUDOR coat of arms that was uncovered in a cottage wall in Hanwell is set to fetch thousands of pounds at auction next week.

The six-foot stone carving was discovered in March by David Crabtree and his partner Karen Leonard while renovating their cottage.

Now the couple are putting the historical treasure up for auction at JS Fine Art in Oxford Road, Banbury, on Saturday, May 16.

Auctioneer Simon Davies estimated it could fetch up to £10,000 and said: "It could make a lot more than that because of it's scarcity. It's very rare.

"It was buried in the walls of a cottage about 800 yards from the 15th-century Hanwell Castle site."

Historians from Oxford University said the carvings date to the reign of Henry VIII or Elizabeth I, and suspect they were originally designed as a centrepiece for the great hall at Hanwell Castle.

It is thought they may have been made for a royal visit to the castle by Henry

VIII himself with his sixth wife, Katherine Parr.

The royal couple visited Woodstock in September 1543 and are thought to have visited Hanwell Castle at the time.

Mr Davies said: "The coat of arms is about 75 per cent complete. We've put it in a frame here at the studio.

"These royal coats were symbols of status. People often had them above fireplaces. They were a badge of recognition in support of royalty.

"I think it had been buried during the Civil War because there were a lot of Parliamentary troops in Hanwell at the time."

Mr Crabtree, 56, and Ms Leonard, 51, only bought the cottage last year.

Mt Crabtree said: "We were putting an extension on the back of the cottage. When we pushed the kitchen wall down this big piece of carved stone fell out.

"We put it up for auction because we didn't know what else to do with it. It's really too big to keep in the house. Hopefully a collector will buy it."



The Manos Puestas playing in Parsons Street during Banbury's annual Spring Festival. From left are: Matt Sullivan, Jon Lewis and Matt Watson

Festival springs into life as crowds flock to the fun

CROWDS flocked to Banbury's Old Town at the weekend to celebrate local traders and the coming of spring.

The biennial Old Town Festival is organised by the town council and the Old

Town Association, and promotes independent businesses in Parsons Street and the Lanes. Live bands, street entertainers, food sampling and flower garland workshops were among the

activities on offer to visitors. Saturday's event started off a programme in Banbury lasting until the autumn. Next up will be the Banbury and District show on June 14, and the Armed Forces Day parades on June 27.



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Attacker whose knife got stuck in victim is jailed

12 years for ringleader whose accomplices kicked man while he was on ground

Pete Hughes
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A MAN who stabbed his victim so hard in the back that the knife blade got stuck grinned as he was jailed for 12 years.

Nathan Hawkins, 26, admitted the charge of wounding Polish-born Adam Cyruszys with intent in Banbury on February 12 last year. The wound was just centimetres away from being fatal, Judge Ian Pringle revealed at Hawkins' sentencing on Tuesday at Oxford Crown Court.

Peter De Feu, defending, said Hawkins was looking forward to the safety and stability of jail.

Hawkins' two teenage accomplices – 18-year-old Corey Reid and a 17-year-old whose identity is protected by law – both denied the same charge, but were found guilty by a jury on March 30.

The court heard how Mr Cyruszys looked out of his win-

dow after hearing the sound of bins being kicked over outside his home in the early hours of February 12, 2014.

He went out, saw the three youths and approached them, at which point Hawkins pulled out a knife and yelled: "I'll f***** kill you."

Mr Cyruszys turned to flee, but slipped and fell on the ground at which point they pounced on him. While Hawkins stabbed Adam Cyruszys as he lay on the floor, the two teenagers punched and kicked him.

The judge said Hawkins stabbed him so hard the knife blade got stuck and the handle came away in his hand.

Mr Cyruszys' life was saved when he was taken to hospital.

Reid and the 17-year-old were each sentenced to three years in prison and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge each. Hawkins was ordered to pay a £120 victims' surcharge.

Defending Hawkins, Mr De Feu said: "He is an unusual

young man in that throughout this whole experience he has embraced the idea of being in custody. He finds a settled, happy lifestyle in prison that he can't find in liberty."

He said Hawkins had an unhappy and violent upbringing. The teenagers' defence barristers painted a picture of Hawkins as the ringleader in the attack, and said their clients did not even know he had a knife.

But Pringle said he would be failing in his duty if he did not send them to prison.

He said: "That sort of attack is utterly deplorable."

Pringle told Hawkins he would serve at least two thirds of his 12-year sentence and then only be released if it was deemed safe.

He said he accepted the teenagers had "nothing to do with the knifing", but said their actions were still unacceptable.

Giving them three years each, he added: "I've reduced it as much as I can."

Bed-blocking now 'rife'

Problem has got worse due to bed closures, says candidate

Hannah Somerville
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HORTON hospital is suffering "immense" problems with bed-blocking, according to a parliamentary candidate for Banbury.

Roseanne Edwards, of the National Health Party, released a joint letter with fellow candidates Clive Peedell, standing in Witney, and Helen Salisbury, standing in Oxford West and Abingdon, calling for more NHS funding to solve the issue.

Last week, the *Banbury Cake* reported that in the 2014/15 financial year, an average of 141 beds a day in Oxfordshire were taken up by people who did not need hospital care.

Ms Edwards said the problem was rife. She said: "At the Horton General Hospital we have suffered immense problems with 'bed blocking' over years.

"At any given time, we have 25 to 40 beds – a huge proportion of the total – occupied by people fit to leave acute care.

"Ludicrously, beds here have been closed over recent years: 17 in one go in 2011, in spite of increased pressure and a never-ending problem with delayed discharge."

She said the Horton was not fully downgraded in 2008 because the distance to the John Radcliffe in Oxford



The Horton General Hospital, Banbury

was too great. It also takes overflow from the JR.

In the next 15 years, 22,800 homes will be built in North Oxfordshire.

Ms Edwards said: "Our hospitals will be able to cope but only with appropriately, fairly increased funding, paid for by fair taxation of the new residents and with decent funding for social care."

Help and support for the elderly at event

A FREE information event for pensioners and carers, organised by Age UK Oxfordshire in Banbury, will be

held on Thursday, May 14, at Banbury Town Hall, Bridge Street. For more information call 07827 235410

Duo appear in court

OXON: Two people charged with kidnapping a 17-year-old girl have appeared in Oxford Crown Court.

Jason Edmunds, 20, of George Street, Banbury, and Annie Newton, 18, of Bluebell Court, Oxford, were both arrested on April 16. Newton has also been charged with possessing an offensive weapon and criminal damage.

Both have been remanded in custody and are due to attend a plea and case management hearing on July 6.

Splash makes cash

OXON: Hundreds of people took the plunge to raise money to help those with terminal illnesses.

The Marie Curie Swimathon held from Friday, April 17, to Sunday, April 19, saw 299 people from Oxfordshire take to the pool to swim as much as they could.

Marie Curie community fundraiser for Oxfordshire, Rebecca Dade, said: "Congratulations to all the swimmers who trained so hard to complete their challenges. They should be very proud of both their efforts in the water and in raising vital funds.

"All the money raised for Marie Curie will help make a huge difference to terminally ill people who wish to spend their final days at home."

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Business awards

OXON: A mix of businesses across the county have come up trumps in this year's Muddy Stiletto's business awards.

Voted on by 20,000 members of the public, the online awards recognise some of the most popular small businesses in Oxon, Herts and Buckinghamshire.

This year's winners included Wild Thyme, Chipping Norton, for best restaurant, The Waterfront Café, Benson, for best casual dining, Brown Bear in Witney for best children's shop and The Gifted Maggie, Faringdon, for best gift shop.

Muddy Stiletto's was set up in 2011 and describes itself as "the urban guide to the countryside".

For full winners listings, visit muddystilettoawards.co.uk/winners.

Children's event

BANBURY: Children can learn first aid, conduct mini science experiments and get up close and personal with animals at a fete organised by business students.

The students, all aged 17-18, are studying business marketing, event management and retail at Banbury and Bicester College.

The fun day on June 6, held at the Banbury campus in Broughton Road, will form part of their final project.

Basic first aid lessons will be on offer, as well as a reptile display, bouncy castle, penalty shootout and other activities. Refreshments will also be available.

For more information contact Ray Saddiq on 07478 777101.

No homes on county's Green Belt, say residents

Campaign group heralds the survey's findings as a 'ringing endorsement' of its goals

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THE majority of Oxfordshire residents do not want the Green Belt land to be built on, according to a new survey.

The poll was carried as local councils were preparing for a county-wide review of the Green Belt.

It was conducted by Alpha Research Ltd for the Oxfordshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

According to the new research, 76 per cent of the county's residents believe the Green Belt should remain open and undeveloped, with 66 per cent seeing new housing development as the greatest threat.

Only 12 per cent of respondents felt that the development in the Green Belt should be allowed.

Helen Marshall, director of CPRE Oxfordshire, said: "Put simply, this research is a ringing endorsement that the general public are supportive of retaining the Green Belt and shows that our councils are acting against the informed wishes of their own electors when they persist in

pressing for housing development in the Green Belt, whether it be on the valuable countryside south of Grenoble Road, north of Abingdon, or three new satellite towns near Abingdon, Kidlington and Wheatley.

"It is time now for our local councils to accept that the overwhelming majority of us want the Green Belt to remain open."

The CPRE said that it had decided to press ahead with the survey because of the absence of public consultation about the form the councils' Green Belt Review should take.

The group said the survey showed 16 times as many people strongly felt the Green Belt should remain open as those who strongly felt development there should be accepted.

The survey involved a sample of 400 Oxfordshire residents.

An Oxfordshire-wide Green Belt review was agreed on last last year, with South Oxfordshire District Council declining to participate, having carried out its own study.

Paul Staines, programme manager of the Oxfordshire Growth Board, which will oversee the review, said: "The Green Belt study will be carried out by consultants. It will look at the current Green Belt to assess its suitability against five statutory tests. Any review of the boundaries will take place when the districts review their Local Plans. I would estimate that it will be completed in the autumn."



Campaign to Protect Rural England's Oxfordshire director Helen Marshall



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Population to explode in county say experts

Oxfordshire will have double the amount of people living here rising to more than a million within the next 40 years

Alex Regan
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THE population of Oxfordshire could more than double over the next 40 years.

By 2052, the number of people living in the county could reach more than a million, almost double what it was in 2014 – 666,000.

And nearly a fifth of the population could be over 70, estimations have revealed.

A report, released by Oxfordshire County Council experts, predict that we could reach the million mark by 2037, and go on to reach 1,150,000 by 2052.

The county has already seen its population increase by nearly 10 per cent since 2001, which has caused strain on the county's roads, over-subscribed state schools and social services.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "Oxfordshire is a fantastic place to work and live and people who grow up in Oxfordshire often want to stay, which is a positive"

But some have warned that the services won't be able to cope with the rise in population.

Mr Hudspeth said: "It is a concern. At the moment 50 per cent of our council budget is spent on two per cent of the population."

"By 2020 that could be 75 per cent."

By 2052 it's predicted that 241,000 people will live in Oxford, compared to 155,000 last year. West Oxfordshire will see the biggest rise with the population up 88 per cent – 200,000 people, while South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are expected to grow by up to 69 per cent and 89 per cent respectively.

Social research officer Mark Fransham said: "It's extremely likely that population growth in Oxford has contributed to the increase in house prices that we've seen over recent years."

"We have also seen a change in trends, with some families choosing to cohabit with other families."

"We have seen cases of one family living in one room and another family living in another in the same house or flat."

Mr Hudspeth said: "What we need is for the city and district councils to co-operate with one another to try to produce adequate housing for our growing region."



Social research officer Mark Fransham

Apprentices to promote project

NINE young people from Oxfordshire are to become ambassadors to help promote apprenticeships across the county.

The youngsters who are completing or have recently completed apprenticeships with local firms are the first to join the latest initiative by Oxfordshire Apprenticeships.

Twenty-one-year-old Emily Joyce, an apprentice administrative assistant in the Department of Physics at Oxford University, is set to become one of the ambassadors.

She said: "I believe having ambassadors will bring awareness, knowledge and experience and be an inspiration to the candidates of the future."

"I feel honoured to be taking part in the scheme and hope that I can encourage and help future apprentices by informing them of my experiences and achievements as an apprentice."

George Hall, also 21, and in his third year of a mechanical engineering apprenticeship is also set to become an ambassador.

He added: "I feel honoured to be an ambassador and to have the opportunity to give my story."

"The first cohort of apprenticeship ambassadors will have a dual role – helping to show employers the benefits to them of taking on an apprentice, and encouraging the next generation of apprentices to sign up."

Oxfordshire Apprenticeships is a project funded through the Oxfordshire City Deal that works with employers, training providers, schools, colleges, potential apprenticeship candidates of all ages, and other partners.

For more information visit oxfordshireapprenticeships.co.uk.

Ambulances failing to reach time targets

AMBULANCE services in Oxfordshire have not met targets to reach seriously-ill patients for at least a year.

South Central Ambulance Service consistently missed targets to reach critically-ill

patients within eight minutes – the time Trusts are supposed to reach at least 75 per cent of patients with such symptoms.

Between April 2014 and February 2015, the average response to serious calls within

eight minutes was 72.22 per cent.

In December, ambulances only reached 66.41 per cent of patients within eight minutes. The handover of patients from ambulance to A&E departments can cause a delay.

Feedback events hopes to raise the standards of adult social care

HEALTHWATCH Oxfordshire will run a series of feedback sessions in the county for adults in social care.

The health watchdog will hold four Hearsay! events over the summer to encourage people to voice concerns and issues straight to senior staff at Oxfordshire County Council.

The events are free and open to all adults who receive a social care service in Oxfordshire. The session in Banbury will be staged on June 4.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire chief executive Rachel Coney said: "Speaking out at Hearsay! makes a difference."

"As a result of last year's event, where concerns were raised about monitoring the quality of care, Oxfordshire County Council has committed to publishing performance data of individual care agencies."

"The council is also developing customer standards for care homes, personal assistants, supported living, social workers and occupational therapists."

For information visit healthwatch-oxfordshire.co.uk, phone 01865 520520 or email hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk.

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in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

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Magna Carta to be celebrated at castle museum talk and picnic

A SPECIAL event organised by Banbury Museum will mark 800 years since the Magna Carta.

In 1215 on the field of the Runnymede, Baron Geoffrey de Say and 24 of his peers forced the reluctant King John to seal the Magna Carta.

The museum in Castle Quay will be celebrating this moment on Thursday, June 25, at Broughton Castle, the home of the present Lord Saye & Sele and the Fiennes family, who are the descendants of Geoffrey de Say.

A talk with the Banbury Historical Society will be held in the castle's Great Hall.

During the event David Carpenter, Professor of Medieval History at King's College London, will explain how the charter gained a pivotal role in English political life.

Sir Robert M Worcester, chairman of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee, will discuss its relevance today.

The castle's gardens will be open to ticket holders from 5.30pm on June 25 for those that would like to explore or have a picnic before the talk, which starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets to the event cost £15 and include a glass of wine or soft drink.

For more information and to book visit banburymuseum.org/-magnacarta

Couple's collection of cartoons goes on display

Exhibition runs until July and features artwork and images from the past 150 years

Hannah Somerville
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AN ARRAY of old cartoons from a couple's expansive collection have been put on display in Banbury for the first time.

The Bring Me Laughter exhibition will run until July at Banbury Museum, Castle Quay, and features original artwork by leading cartoonists and caricaturists of the last 150 years.

The images were gathered by George and Pat Walker.

Museum director Simon Townsend said: "This exhibition is a real treat, the fruit of successful collaboration with the Cartoon Museum and the Walker Family, who have generously made the work available."

Artwork on display ranges from sensitive drawings by Charles Keene to over-the-top caricatures by Max Beerbohm and Jonathan Cusick. Political cartoons and social critique rub shoulders with light-hearted, humorous pieces.

Other names include Anton, who created cartoons for Punch magazine, H.M. Bateman, best known for comic series *The Man Who...* and Disney

Studio. The Cartoon Museum, London produced the new exhibition and it is the first time the pictures will have been shown away from London.

The collection is in memory of avid collector George Walker, who died last year aged 96.

Mr Walker trained as a metallurgist and chemist but was always fascinated by the visual arts. As a schoolboy, he sketched from life and drew caricatures of friends and teachers, going on to take classes at the Carlisle College of Art. He and wife Pat became collectors after the Second World War.

He was known to have commented: "The fever of collecting is no respecter[sic] of persons. It can strike anybody though it be wildly beyond their means, and it can be caught in a variety of ways. It may well last a lifetime because there is no cure."

Mrs Walker and son Phil attended the grand opening of the exhibition on Friday, April 24. Phil said: "My parents always hoped to have the opportunity to exhibit their cartoons locally and to share their interest with others. This wish has now come true in the lovely setting of the museum."

"Unfortunately, my father died a few months before the opening of the exhibition. However, it serves as a fitting tribute to his passion for the arts, which I hope many people will visit and enjoy."

Bring Me Laughter runs until Saturday, July 4, and is free to visit.



Phil and Pat Walker at the opening of the Bring Me Laughter exhibition



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3-year ban for teacher

Man wrote fake emails to deceive school that he was qualified to teach

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A TEACHER who lied about his qualifications while working at a school for autistic boys has been handed a prohibition order.

Mr Komborero Dauramanzi, 35, was employed as a general studies teacher at Swalcliffe Park School, Banbury, in September and October last year.

It was agreed that he would be offered a qualified teaching post once he obtained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) from the University of Newport.

However, Mr Dauramanzi hid the fact that he had failed to achieve QTS in order to keep his job, setting up a false email account to send emails that appeared to come from a senior lecturer.

On October 18, 2014, he forwarded an email from the account to the school,

giving the impression he was waiting for final marks when he knew he had already failed.

In a review by the National College for Teaching and Leadership's panel, it was found that the allegations, admitted by Dauramanzi, amounted to unacceptable professional conduct.

It stated: "The conduct of Mr Dauramanzi fell significantly short of standards expected of the profession."

"Mr Dauramanzi acted in a fraudulent and dishonest manner. Teachers are regarded as role models, and influence pupils."

It was recommended that he be prohibited from teaching.

However, Dauramanzi's assertion that he was "fundamentally an honest person" was noted, as well as the possibility that he would have more to contribute to the job in the future, especially regarding autistic children.

The Secretary of State agreed to ban Dauramanzi from teaching but can apply for the order to be set aside as of April 24, 2018.

Stamp of approval for collectors' festival



Rhys Hart takes a closer look some exhibits at the Banbury Stamp Fair, which was staged at Blessed George Napier School

THE town's first stamp collectors festival for many years took place.

The event coincided with a year of celebrations of philately - the study of stamps and postal history - in the UK, with the London 2015 International Exhibition in May.

Banbury's Festival of Stamps featured 22 stamp dealers and a good turnout of collectors.

It included the Midland Philatelic Federation's annual Spring Convention competitions, as well as a stamp and postcard fair.

Free valuations of stamps were offered by Midlands expert, Tony Lester.

A "Design a Stamp" competition for children was also held featuring local schools, with a Penny Black offered as a prize for the winner.

Eight-year-old Rhys Hart, the grandson of Banbury Stamp Society secretary John Davies, got stuck into some of the stamps on show at Saturday's event.

Mr Davies said: "Whatever your interests, stamps have something for you - whether it's sports, animals or a particular country, there's always something to inspire. Everyone wants to find a bargain or a rarity."

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Supplier of rural goods to move in

A NEW branch of Countrywide Farmers plc, which provides products and services to the rural community, is coming to Banbury this month.

The new store at Banbury Cross Retail Park, Lockhead Close, is due to have its grand opening on Saturday, May 30.

The store will create 15 new jobs in the area, and sell products including dog walking and horse riding equipment, chicken coops, gardening and country clothing and more.

It will be taking over a unit at the retail park that previously belonged to Comet, next to Maplin Electronics.

Countrywide CEO John Hardman said: "We have some very exciting plans for expansion, all starting with the opening of our new Countrywide store at Banbury Cross Retail Park."

"The grand opening is a matter of weeks away now and we have plenty of great activities set to take place."

"We encourage people to come along to see what the new store has to offer. Whether you're looking for new horse riding accessories or feed, treats or food for your pet or big name clothing brands, we have a great selection of products that are going to be available and some really exciting offers."

This will be the 54th Countrywide store to open nationwide.

The opening ceremony will run from 10am.

Banbury town mayor will cut the ribbon alongside Dogs for the Disabled, Countrywide's chosen charity. Refreshments will be provided.

MEMBERS TAKE TO THE STREETS TO ASK SHOPPERS TO HELP VICTIMS

Rotary raises £2.2k to help the earthquake victims of Nepal rebuild their lives and communities

THOUSANDS of pounds have been raised by the people of Banbury to assist earthquake victims in Nepal.

Four teams of people from Banbury Rotary Club took to the streets last Friday and

raised £1,795 from shoppers, rising to £2,243.75 with Gift Aid.

All of the funds will go to Shelterbox, a UK charity that delivers essentials for people to rebuild their lives after a disaster.

A typical supply box contains a tent, thermal blankets, water purification equipment, cooking utensils and solar lamps.

Boxes cost up to £590.

The Rotary Clubs of Banbury and Banbury Cherwell will meet this week to decide whether to add further funds to increase the overall number they can buy.



Banbury Rotary Club members out collecting for earthquake victims in Nepal

Drop in animal cruelty

Number of reported cases and convictions are down

Pete Hughes
phughes@nqo.com

ANIMAL cruelty complaints have dropped in Oxfordshire thanks to people using social media to raise awareness, the RSPCA has said.

It goes against the national trend, in which the charity has seen a jump in the number of reported cruelty cases.

The total number of general complaints, such as concern

for an animal's welfare, made to the charity in Oxfordshire dropped from 1,411 in 2013 to 1,376 last year.

RSPCA spokeswoman Calie Rydings said: "In recent years we have seen a rise in the use of social media and our education, information and advice messages are spread much more widely than ever before. We hope that this means that people are becoming more aware that if they see an animal being cruelly treated they can contact the RSPCA."

"In the Oxfordshire region, the vast majority of this advice

is followed by owners who do want to do their best for their animals."

The overall drop in cruelty complaints in Oxfordshire is in contrast to a national rise in complaints from 153,770 in 2013 to 159,831 in 2014.

But direct cruelty complaints, including beatings, improper killing, poisoning, trapping and mutilation, did rise from 149 to 174. The number of convictions has also dropped considerably.

In 2013, there were 10 people convicted of a total of 106 charges for animal cruelty. Six of those were from the same

family who ran the disgraced Crunchy's Animal Rescue in Longworth.

Just one person was convicted of animal cruelty in Oxfordshire last year.

And Luke Berry, 36, of Taylor Close, Faringdon was convicted in March of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal after posting a video on Facebook of him swallowing a live goldfish. He was given a 12-month community order with 120 hours of unpaid work, banned from keeping fish for five years and told to pay £500 costs with £60 victim surcharge.



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Be aware of 'blue light' emergencies

THE ambulance service is urging drivers to be more alert on the roads when their crews are rushing to emergencies.

South Central Ambulance Service staff hope motorists will watch YouTube video *Blue Light Aware*, which aims to educate viewers of the journeys paramedics take during a crisis.

The video was produced by the GEM Motoring Assist Road Safety Charity and offers advice about how to help emergency service drivers based on Highway Code information.

Driving standards manager at SCAS Jon Porter said: "Our double crewed ambulances, rapid response vehicles and motorcycles make 'blue light' journeys because someone needs their urgent medical help.

"By watching *Blue Light Aware* you will better understand the needs of the emergency services, you will be reducing the risks you face and you will be contributing to a safer road environment. What's more you might also be helping to save a life."

The video will tackle road situations involving emergency vehicles.

Staff hope it will also prevent drivers putting themselves into dangerous situations including risking damage to cars or breaking the law.

See youtu.be/bTRHvQEIkU.

More thought on road map needed

District councillors urge rethink on transport plan to help connect rural areas

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

MORE detail is needed for plans to improve roads across the Cherwell district, according to councillors.

Cherwell District Council's executive has agreed that Oxfordshire's most recent local transport plan, Connecting Oxfordshire, is a good start, but needs more work.

The plan outlines Oxfordshire County Council's plans for road improvements across the county.

Cherwell District Council's planning chief, Michael Gibbard, said: "The current plan had some clear area strategies in it for Banbury, as well as Bicester, Kidlington and rural areas, which appears to be lost in this latest proposed plan."

"Although there are some initiatives in and around Kidlington, it appears the north of the district is largely forgotten."

"There does need to be further consultation with Cherwell District Council on transport initiatives, particularly recognising the growth of Banbury and Bicester."



Planning chief Michael Gibbard

"While supporting many of these aspirations listed for Cherwell, far more detail, more clarity and more structured strategy and final options are needed to demonstrate how the latest plan will be delivered."

Oxfordshire County Council's Local Plan was based on "supporting growth and economic vitality, cutting carbon and improving quality of life".

A spokesman said: "We welcome Cherwell's comments, as with all feedback from key stakeholders,

which we will take into account when finalising the plan this summer."

"Publication of the final plan is not an end to discussion, as all schemes proposed will be fully consulted upon and changed where appropriate."

Strategies for Banbury include suggestions of several new link roads, such as a new road connecting Bloxham Road and Oxford Road and a road from Higham Way to the M40.

Also in the plan there is a proposal for better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and improved public transport links, such as Bicester's new park-and-ride, and the possibility of a new motorway junction near Arncott.

The feedback follows closely the concerns of Bicester town councillors who asked the county council for an extension to the talks after accusing it of trying to "steam roll" through the plan.

Prior to the end of consultation, Bicester town councillor Jim Tucker said: "There are contradictions with the Cherwell Local Plan and the Bicester transport plan, so it would have been sensible to have delayed the consultation until after the inspectors report on Cherwell's local plan."

Results on the consultation will be published by Tuesday, June 16.

Get free advice at careers shop

CAREERS advice and guidance hosted by Oxfordshire colleges will be made available to non-students, thanks to a new scheme.

A new Employment Shop is being introduced at Banbury and Bicester College and the City of Oxford College. It is being delivered by Activate Learning, a local education and training group.

Students, school leavers and people in the local area can make appointments with advisors for impartial guidance, CV help and preparation from interviews.

Employers can also use the service to promote full and part-time vacancies and apprenticeships.

Activate Learning chief executive Sally Dicketts said: "We have identified a gap in the provision of high-quality advice and guidance in the country."

"Funding for careers advice in schools has been affected by cuts in recent years, meaning that young people aren't necessarily getting the right information about their options."

"We want to help young people and adults make informed decisions and help them map out a career pathway that matches their circumstances and aspirations for the future."

Colleges run by Activate Learning include Banbury and Bicester College, City of Oxford College and Reading College, where the Employment Shop has already been set up.

The scheme will be up and running in the other two colleges by September.

Free information events for parents and carers, helping them understand the options after GCSEs, are being held at Banbury and Bicester College on Wednesday, June 24, at 6pm. To book, visit activatelearning.ac.uk/getthefacts.

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Latest figures reveal crimes of the over-60s

ALMOST 270 of the county's criminals were over the age of 60 last year with three committing crimes at the grand old age of 79.

There were 269 elderly offenders during 2014, committing 262 crimes across the county, according to police statistics.

This is the lowest it has been in five years, down 15 per cent – 45 crimes – from 2013.

The number has been dropping steadily since 2010, when there were 375 crimes committed by the over-60s.

A spokesman for the charity Age Concern said it was "shocked" to hear so many criminals were older.

Branch vice-chairman Judith Bennett said: "I'm amazed. When you think about the criminal profile you don't usually think about the older generation."

She said: "The cases that are always talked about is youngsters committing crimes, when most young people don't do that."

Violent crimes made up 44 per cent of the infractions, with 42 incidents seeing a victim injured and 72 incidents without injury.

There were also 52 incidents of shoplifting, 32 public order offences, 18 sexual offences and seven drugs offences.

The figures, obtained through a Freedom of Information request, showed that 77 per cent of the offenders were men.

Out of the 269 offenders, 59 of them were septuagenarians and the three oldest delinquents were nearly 80.



Pupils have been asked to continue their Bees and Weeds project after successful exhibition

Student merchandise event to save the bees is a sell-out

A PROJECT to tackle Oxfordshire's declining bee population has been a sell-out as it draws to a close.

For the past month Banbury and Bicester College students have been displaying work at the Old Fire

Station in Oxford and trying to get people to protect the bumblebee.

Students developed items such as badges, pictures, tea towels, cards and plant pots with some help from organisation Pale Blue Dot.

The project proved a hit with initial stock being completely sold out, and they have since been asked to continue creating the items to sell.

It was based on research by scientists showing the "dramatic

loss" of natural pollinators.

Student Holly Jones, 21, said: "I chose to get involved because I am interested in the environment and demonstrating the effects chemicals are having on our wildlife."



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Pilot scheme is just what the doctor ordered

GPs can be contacted at evenings and weekends via video and email during trial

Pete Hughes and Alex Regan
phughes@nqo.com

VIDEO and email GP appointments will allow people in Oxfordshire to see their doctor at evenings and weekends in a year-long pilot scheme.

A total of 76 GP practices in Banbury, Bicester, Witney, Oxford and Abingdon will test out a range of new ways for their 694,000 patients to see their doctor.

The pilot scheme will also involve home visits and same-day GP appointments at alternative local surgeries for urgent problems. If successful they could be rolled out across the county.

The Department of Health (DoH) announced £4.9 million funding for the pilot scheme, intended to relieve pressure on GP surgeries and hospitals.

It estimates the scheme will allow Oxfordshire surgeries to offer an extra 70,000 appoint-

ments, cutting the need for 1,000 hospital admissions and 3,000 A&E visits.

The idea is that if patients have more ways to contact their GP, they won't need to see a doctor so often.

Email appointments will be tested out at two South Oxfordshire practices – The Abingdon Surgery and The Malthouse, from next month.

Patients will be able to book an urgent email "appointment" with their GP at ten-minute slots, from 7.30am to 8.30am, on weekdays. Their doctor will respond to them via email within two hours, offering a diagnosis, a prescription, or if necessary a face-to-face appointment.

The same service will be offered from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on weekdays and from 9am to 11am on Saturdays.

But former GP Patricia White warned older generations could have trouble using email or Skype.

The 67-year-old said: "There's this idea that everybody should

be able to use computers. That's fine if you're younger but for pensioners it's not that easy. We do like face-to-face contact. You can't diagnose a chest infection without listening to a patient's chest."

Surgeries in Banbury, Bicester and Witney and surrounding villages will trial Internet video appointments with GPs.

The DoH said links would initially be set up for patients at care homes and nursing homes but could also be rolled out to patients' homes.

Those three towns will also trial "neighbourhood access hubs", meaning patients who cannot get a same-day appointment with their own GP will be able to see another GP or nurse who can access their medical records. Another scheme that will run in Banbury, Bicester, Witney and Oxford is same-day home visits for older patients and people with severe conditions.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire said it was "delighted" with the funding.

Beer and cider with a Welsh theme

BANBURY: About 100 different beverages, live music and a special Welsh theme will feature in this year's Banbury Beer and Cider Festival.

The event returns for a 15th year from Thursday, May 7, to Saturday, May 9, at the Territorial Army centre, Oxford Road.

More than 80 beers – many from this year's chosen theme region of Wales – and 20 ciders will be on offer, with beer and cheese tasting sessions held on the Friday and Saturday afternoons.

The British Legion will also run a tombola stand.

Entry costs range from £1 to £4 depending on the date and time. For more information visit banburybeerfest.camra.org.uk/index.php.

Charity music night

BANBURY: The Rotary Club will host a musical night to remember in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the group's Young Musician of the Year competition, a Gala Midsummer Concert is being staged at the Tudor Hall School, Banbury.

Past winners of the competition, which gives performers aged eight to 18 a platform to show their talents, will perform on the night, many of whom have since won international acclaim.

The event will take place at 7pm on Sunday, June 21, in the Tudor Hall School. Tickets cost £10 and are available from Fashion Fabrics in Parsons Street.

Compost initiative

OXON: Residents across the county can get their hands on a half-price compost bin as part of Compost Awareness Week, which started yesterday.

Oxfordshire County Council has teamed up with getcomposting.com to offer people who buy one bin at full price the chance to buy a second for £17.98 instead of £39.

It is hoped it will encourage more people in the county to compost, which helps to reduce carbon emissions and waste.

To find out more visit getcomposting.com.

Tackling loneliness

OXON: Elderly people in Oxfordshire could be receiving calls from their electricity company, but not about their bill.

Volunteers from Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) have teamed up with charity Age UK to provide 'friendship calls' to tackle loneliness across the county.

Ten people from the SEPD's emergency service centre in Portsmouth will spend 30 minutes a week cultivating a telephone friendship with an elderly customer.

Age UK's head of fundraising Laurie Boulton said: "We know how devastating loneliness can be for older people so we are delighted that SEPD has joined our team of 'Call in Time' volunteers."

Community project

OXON: A project to bring youngsters and the older community together needs members.

Bridging the Gap aims to build relationships between school pupils and their elders by hosting activities including pottery making, play writing and art workshops.

The initiative is being support by charity Carers Oxfordshire, which offers information, advice and support to unpaid adult carers across the county.

For more information contact Deborah Lewis on 01235 868536 or cjanlewis@btinternet.com

A&E waiting targets are missed for six months

County's A&E departments 'among worst in country' for patient waiting times

Alex Regan
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FOR the past six months, A&E departments in Oxfordshire have not met targets to see patients within four hours of arrival.

In the last week of March, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust was ranked the ninth worst in England for treating patients within four hours, compared to 24th worst for the same time last year.

According to NHS England figures, only 78.6 per cent of patients were seen within the four-hour window in the last week of March this year. The target is 95 per cent.

The Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which had to declare a "major incident" due to capacity issues in January, was ranked tenth worst in the country.

The last time Oxfordshire's A&E departments met the 95 per cent target was in October last year, causing upset and anguish for patients.

Between January and April, an

average of 85.42 per cent of patients were seen within four hours.

Long Wittenham resident Ann Tomline had to wait four-and-a-half hours at the John Radcliffe Hospital to be treated for a suspected fractured hip in 2013.

The grandmother-of-four said she was shocked that the issue hadn't improved.

The retired nursery teacher said: "I'm just sad that nobody seems to be listening."

"I was in agony when I was in A&E. If it wasn't for the ambulance driver helping me, I would have continued being in pain."

"I can't blame the staff as they were so apologetic. The problem is they were rushed off their feet."

Director of clinical services Paul Brennan said: "Last year's winter was a particularly mild winter with no flu outbreaks."

"But this year, we have had a few flu outbreaks and we have been dealing with people who are a lot older [who need inpatient treatment]."

"But we have begun to improve. Last week [starting April 13] our waiting time target hit 94.4 per cent [for seeing patients within four hours]."

He added that of all the people who attended A&E in the 2014/15 year, about 27 per cent were then admitted to hospital.



Ambulances queue outside an accident and emergency department



Get snap happy for competition

WILDLIFE lovers have less than a month to enter their snaps into a contest. The Oxford Festival of Nature will take place between June 1 and June 14. People can submit pictures taken at the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust's sites. The winner will win a workshop with a professional photographer, and their snaps will be exhibited at The Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Entries close on May 31. See oxfordfestivalofnature.org.

Pupils to discover Magna Carta

YOUNG people in Oxfordshire will have the chance to learn more about the Magna Carta.

The Oxfordshire Schools Project will offer a range of activities to schools and colleges in the county to mark the 800th anniversary of the document.

The project was given £15,000 by the Magna Carta 800 committee, which helps organise events to mark the occasion.

Academics will help run events and workshops and have created a Magna Carta Resource Pack to help primary and secondary

school teachers stimulate discussion about the document.

Magna Carta was signed in 1215 and is widely regarded as the basis of Western legal systems and governments.

Oxfordshire Schools Project manager Michelle Montgomery said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity, thanks to support from the 800th committee, to create a range of innovative and interactive activities for young people within Oxfordshire and beyond that help them explore the ideas contained within the Magna Carta."

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Charity sale

CHERWELL: The Oxford Parent Infant Project has organised a plant and book sale in the gardens at Cedar Lodge in North Side, Steeple Aston. It will run from 10am to 1pm on May 23.

The charity supports mothers suffering from post-natal depression and aims to help parents make secure bonds with their babies. See: oxpip.org.uk.

Charity cyclathon

BANBURY: Play workers, trustees and friends worked up a sweat for charity in a six-hour 'cyclathon' at Sainsbury's.

The team were raising money for the Let's Play Project, a Banbury-based charity specialising in leisure provision for disabled youngsters. They cycled 116 miles on a bike in the Sainsbury's foyer, raising £249.26.

This has been added to the group's running total of £3,610. See: justgiving.com/letsplaywolfrunners.

Five make finals

BANBURY: Five pupils from Sibford School, Banbury, are through to the finals of the English School's Swimming Association Championships.

Lara Mills, Mila Jabb, Louis Bushby and Kal Kinser, all 10, and Lenny Townsend, 11, qualified after competing in the South East Divisional Relay Finals held at the Spectrum Pool in Guildford.

The finals are on June 20, at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield.

Care homes are 'below standards'

Quarter of residences were either 'inadequate' or 'required improvement'

Alex Regan
aregan@nqo.co.uk

ONE in four care homes in the county either require improvement or are considered inadequate by a health watchdog.

According to the Care Quality Commission website, 24 of the 92 active homes have unsatisfactory standards.

Four have been rated inadequate, 20 require improvement, and the rest have been rated good.

A spokesman for campaign group Patient Voice, Jacqui Pearce-Gervis, said: "It's a very worrying trend as we're all going to get older and we'll find ourselves in the situation where we have inadequate care."

Paul Cann, chief executive of elderly campaign group Age UK Oxfordshire, said: "We're always concerned when a care home falls short."

"The key problem is the chronic underfunding of elderly care over the past 10 years. The danger is that people could cut corners because of a lack of funding."



Jacqui Pearce-Gervis

At Banbury-based The Ridings, which is run by care provider Anchor, staff did not follow the conventional process of filling in "do not attempt resuscitation" forms, potentially causing confusion if a patient suffered a cardiac arrest.

District manager Tracey Coombes said: "We are working with the CQC during their ratings review process regarding The Ridings."

"The home, which has an experienced manager, has previously maintained its excellent rating and was fully compliant."

Oxfordshire Care Homes Association chairman George Tuthill said: "One of the consistent issues that I can see is staffing. I would say that poor staffing levels have a lot to do with issues in care homes. The main issue facing care homes is a lack of central funding."

The other three homes that have been rated inadequate were Witney care home Mill House, Henley-based care home Chilterns End and Feredune Court.

Chilterns End, run by The Orders of St John Trust, was rapped by the CQC because it was short staffed at some points in the day. At Feredune Court, inspectors said the 47-bed service, also managed by Anchor, "was not always safe", and an inspection at the 32-resident Mill House, the health watchdog found it required improvements to safety, leadership and effectiveness of service.

A spokesman for Mill House said: "The CQC report relates to an inspection that took place in January 2015 and since that time, we have been working on an improvement plan that is being overseen by our regional management team."

A Feredune Court spokesman said: "Since the inspection, a care advisor has visited the home and a robust improvement plan has been implemented."

Unemployment rates are falling

OXFORDSHIRE'S unemployment rate was 3.6 per cent in 2014, well below the UK unemployment rate of 6.2 per cent over the same period.

According to figures released by the Office for National Statistics, the county's unemployment rate was almost half that of London's (7 per cent) and compared favourably to the South East region (4.8 per cent).

The figures are for the full year 2014 from January to December.

Kerry Houston, head of regional model development for Oxford Economics, said unemployment within Oxfordshire had "fallen by 10,000 from 2012 and we expect this decline to continue though at a much more modest rate".

She added: "Unemployment fell to only 2.4 per cent in 2005, so there is scope for further falls."

She expects the local labour market to continue to improve. "The forecasts suggest an additional 15,000 jobs within Oxfordshire over the next five years. Growth will continue to be dependent upon gains in the professional services, and admin and support sectors, which favours the southern regions given their highly skilled workers."

South Oxfordshire had the lowest unemployment rate in the county last year (2.9 per cent), while Oxford recorded the highest (4.6 per cent).

Other districts were West Oxfordshire (3.2 per cent), Vale of White Horse (3.6 per cent) and Cherwell (3.6 per cent).

Oxfordshire generated 341,000 jobs in 2014, representing a 76.2 per cent employment rate among 16 to 64-year-olds.

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High-stakes spy games hit big screen in new Spooks

SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD
(15, 104 mins)

DURING a nine-year run on BBC One, *Spooks* thrilled viewers with the morally conflicted escapades of members of Section D of MI5 – including one gruesome death sequence involving a deep fat fryer that sparked a deluge of complaints.

The show concluded in 2011 with the death of a pivotal character, effectively bringing down the curtain on the high-stakes spy game.

After four years in dramatic limbo, familiar faces return in this glossy big-screen mission penned by Jonathan Brackley and Sam Vincent, who co-wrote the majority of episodes of the final two series.

There's a comforting air of familiarity about this *Bourne Identity*-style caper that serves as a reboot of the franchise and wedges the door ajar for further assignments, presuming lead actor Kit Harington can be wooed away from *Game Of Thrones*.

Director Bharat Nalluri, who was closely associated with the TV version, maintains a brisk pace and orchestrates a couple of nail-biting action sequences.

Sir Harry Pearce (Peter Firth), head of counter-terrorism at MI5, oversees the handover of terrorist Qasim (Elyes Gabel) to the CIA.

The transfer, via the traffic-clogged roads of London, reaches a stand-off when Qasim's gun-toting henchmen attack the police escort.

Harry makes the bold decision to avoid bloodshed by releasing the prisoner.

Qasim narrowly escapes a subsequent pursuit by MI5 agent June Keaton (Tuppence Middleton) and her partner.

Soon after, Harry vanishes without trace, shouldering the blame for the debacle.

Dame Geraldine Maltby (Jennifer Ehle), deputy director general of MI5, and Oliver Mace (Tim McInnerny), chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, enlist Harry's protégé Will



Peter Firth and Kit Harington, appearing in a scene from *Spooks: The Greater Good*

Picture: PA Photo/Pinewood Pictures

Crombie (Kit Harington) to track down his mentor.

Will reluctantly agrees and unwittingly stumbles into a deadly conspiracy.

With the clock ticking before Qasim detonates a dirty bomb in the heart of London, Will attempts to navigate a web of intrigue, some of it spun by Harry, aided by fellow agent Erin Watts (Lara Pulver).

Spooks: The Greater Good references tragic events from the final episode of the TV series and reopens old wounds to cast doubt on the ulterior motives of some of the key players.

Fans will savour these gossamer thin ties to the past but Nalluri's picture works well as a stand-alone feature for the uninitiated.

Firth affects the same furrowed brow to suggest he is custodian of too many secrets, while Harington expends energy in bruising fight sequences.

The plot twists and turns, and threatens to tie itself in knots, but thankfully unravels with a satisfying dose of treachery.

As Harry reminds his protégé, "You can do good or you can do well. Sooner or later, they make you choose."

CakeWhat's on

FRIDAY

Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford: *Silent on the Matter*. Runs today and tomorrow, 7.45pm. A new play by Carolyn Lloyd-Davies, probing the controversial and sensitive issue of gender foeticide. It's a story of close friends, from two very different backgrounds, who believe they truly understand and respect the other's culture, until a shocking decision is made, exposing hypocrisy and underlying unspoken conflict. See: oldfirestation.org.uk/event/silent-on-the-matter/. £13.50, concessions £11.50. 01865 263980.

SATURDAY
Brill Memorial Hall, Church Street, Brill: *Mix-ups and Mishaps* - an evening of three one-act plays. Runs today and tomorrow, 7.30pm. The Windmill Players present Stephen Bean's *A Little Box of Oblivion*, Jimmie Chinn's *Interior Designs* and John Mortimer's *The Dock Brief*. Some of the language used makes this event unsuitable

for young children. Tickets are £10, available from Brill Stores and Fran Newman 01844 237517.

TUESDAY

New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford: *Jersey Boys*. Runs until May 23. 7.30pm. This smash hit musical tells the true life story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented their own unique sound, and sold 175 million records worldwide. 2.30pm matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays. £17.90 to £46.40 (plus £4.00 transaction fee). 0844 8713020.

Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford: *Hammer and Tongue*.

8pm. Glittering performances sandwiched by acclaimed feature artists, such as Simon Munnery, John Hegley, Elvis McGonagall, Luke Wright, and Kate Tempest. Also featuring the Open Poetry Slam, where eight up-and-coming poets have three minutes to dazzle the audience with their performance skills. The

winner goes through to the grand final. See: oldfirestation.org.uk/event/hammer-and-tongue-20/. £7, concessions £5. 01865 263980.

Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford: *Monument to Charlie Chaplin*. 7.30pm. An evening at the cinema in 1941 interrupted by a miracle at wartime. A short black and white movie projected on 16mm reel, accompanied by an introduction featuring live music and followed by a screening of *The Great Dictator*. £10, £8. 01865 305305.

WEDNESDAY

Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham: *Night Must Fall* - a psychological thriller by Emlyn Williams. Run until May 16. 7.45pm. The play examines the inner workings of a murderer's mind and explores the fascination that murder holds for the remainder of ordinary humanity. £8 / £7 concessions, £16 supper & show on Fri. 07721 744020.



Jennifer Ehle, who has a role in *Spooks: The Greater Good*

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport


DETERMINED: Banbury boss Paul Davis wants to stay at club

Davis: I am right man for Banbury

Puritans can bounce back, says manager

By Matthew Bruce

PAUL Davis believes he is the man to lead Banbury United back to the Premier Division next season, after seeing his side relegated.

An impending move to have the Puritans transformed into a Community Benefit Society run by the Banbury United Supporters' Club has raised questions over who will manage the side next season.

But the current incumbent believes he has done enough to be given another opportunity.

"Obviously the ownership issue is up in the air

and that, at every football club, starts rumours," said Davis.

"When clubs change owners they sometimes want a fresh start and if that's the case I'll be disappointed, because I've not even had a full season.

"I believe that with a full season I can keep most of that dressing room together and we can have a go at coming straight back."

Davis was appointed manager last September following the departure of Edwin Stein.

And although he was ultimately unable to stave off relegation, Davis feels his side have plenty to be proud of after a testing campaign.

He said: "With the financial situation at the football club, it's nothing short of a miracle that we finished third bottom, let alone have come here with a chance of staying up.

"The team that finished bottom have had £500 a week more than us and by rights we should have finished bottom of the league.

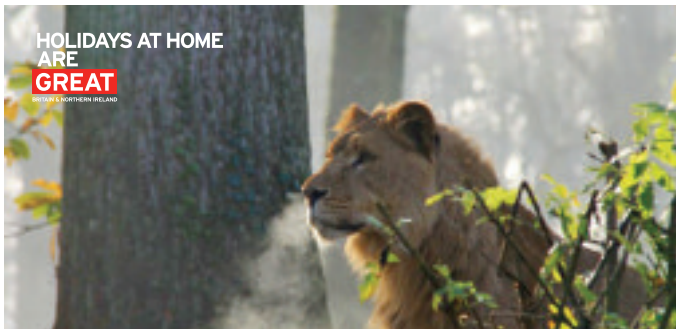
"I just want the opportunity to turn it around."

FINAL TABLE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION				
Corby Tn	44	29	7	86 47 94
Poole Tn	44	28	7	84 35 91
Truro City	44	27	5	83 58 86
Hungerford	44	22	13	9 64 36 79
St Neots Tn	44	20	16	8 82 58 76
Redditch Utd	44	21	12	11 73 44 75
Weymouth	44	22	7	15 71 71 73
Cirencester Tn	44	20	12	12 77 54 72
Hitchin Tn	44	20	10	14 78 63 70
Paulton Rov	44	18	10	16 65 62 64
Chippenham Tn	44	16	13	15 54 54 61
Chesham Utd	44	16	12	16 79 72 60
Cambridge City	44	14	15	15 71 62 57
Dunstable Tn	44	16	9	19 71 78 57
Bideford	44	16	7	21 66 85 55
Slough Tn	44	13	12	19 66 88 51
Dorchester Tn	44	14	8	22 63 74 50
Histon	44	13	10	21 53 74 49
Biggleswade	44	11	12	21 57 75 45
Frome Tn	44	10	11	23 49 80 41
Banbury Utd	44	9	10	25 53 86 37
Arlesey Tn	44	10	6	28 43 84 36
*Burnham	44	5	8	31 41 89 20
Hereford record expunged				

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

What is it you want out of life Aries? Do you really know? Take time out this week to think about you and your needs as your stars indicate you have been looking after everyone but you! Travel is well starred and Mars helps you to change arrangements without offending anyone, so now is the time to say what you want from your spare time. Ring now so I can tell you your future.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You must avoid telling other's secrets today or it will come back on you. Try to put your time and energy instead into your own life and priorities. News of someone you care about gives you reason to feel excited about an upcoming event. Your ruling planet Venus makes it easy to choose admirers, but choose carefully. The most compatible is not necessarily the most obvious. Ring now to hear why.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Your sign is known for its ability to communicate, but in recent days you've found it hard to say how you feel to your close ones. These mixed emotions appear to have a lot to do with the way you've been treated in the last two weeks. Try to explain your feelings to those who have hurt them. What's obvious to you may not have been obvious to them. Ring me so we can talk.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Time is hard to find this week, so you would be wise to make a list of your priorities and stick to it, otherwise you will only end up meeting yourself coming backwards. The person you miss is also missing you, so be the bigger person and make contact with them. You'll be glad you did once you see how much happier your day to day life becomes. Ring now for a twist on your romantic future.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Someone you thought you could trust has let you down, but what you are yet to realise is that they have actually done you a huge favour. With things out in the open this week you will no longer have to skirt around issues or tell white lies. By Thursday you will actually feel as if a weight has been lifted from your shoulders. Ring now to hear how foreign places and names promise romance.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Take your time when dealing with facts and figures this week as nothing is what it at first seems. You may be better to delay any important meetings or contracts until you can be sure of what you're agreeing to or signing. You see Virgo, aspects suggest that what you are sorting out will be more of a permanent fixture than a temporary one. Ring now so I tell you what's ahead.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Forewarned is forearmed and you need to know that you can and should expect the best my friend. You've been settling for second best. Try to take the time out to think about what you want from your future as there are some important decisions approaching. What you thought to be fact in business may just be fiction, so check your sources. Ring now so I can help you assert yourself.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

When was the last time you made time for you? I think it's been a while as I can see from your stars that you've been dancing to the beat of others, not your own. Assert yourself Scorpio and give yourself some space. There is much to be gained by staking a claim in your own life this week. News of a birth or pregnancy gives you reason to get excited. Ring me so I can tell you all.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Money may be hard to find this week and you may have to borrow from Peter to pay Paul. The written word is more important than you could possibly imagine, so please try to pay attention to what you are signing or you could end up trapping yourself into agreements which are impossible to get out of. Ring now to hear why it's worth renegotiating all existing deals.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Your element of earth is pushing you to ask for commitments which you may not really want or need. A fall out in the family seems to have placed a finger of blame upon you. Take control. There is so much more to this situation than you could possibly imagine. A careless mind on Friday could see you making silly mistakes and causing misadventure. Careful! Ring now to reveal all.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You seem to be afraid of something or someone and you're allowing it to control you instead of you controlling it. Use Tuesday to make a new game plan as there is nothing you want that you cannot have. Arguments in the workplace are not worth your time and energy, so step back and let others make a fool of themselves. Ring now to hear why it's worth returning all calls on Thursday and Friday.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You're a really good judge of character and yet you seem to be really bad at having faith in your own words and actions. Events that happen this week are all to teach you how and why you should stand up for yourself. New attractions cause confusion, but ask yourself and not others what and who you really want for your life. Ring now to hear how study beckons in the months ahead.

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In brief

Mitsubishi dealer Firs Garage, in Hook Norton, has loaned an L200 4x4 pick-up to Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, near Temple Guiting, to tow trailer-loads of visitors on tours around the site. Run by rural TV presenter Adam Henson, the farm park offers visitors a chance to meet rare-breed animals, and the past eight weeks have seen live lambing and kidding shows. Last year it was named Farm Attraction of the Year by the National Farm Attractions Network. Dean Wood, dealer principal at Firs Garage, said: "When we heard Adam needed an extra vehicle to help over this busy period we knew the L200 was the vehicle for him. As a rural dealership we are a big supporter of the farming community, so it was great to be able to help Adam and the team."

Ford is backing the first Simply Pink rally, to be staged at Beaulieu, Hampshire, on May 31, by taking along the Streetka, FAB Too, from the 2004 *Thunderbirds* action adventure film. Its distinctive pink paintwork marks it out as one of a limited edition of eight built to promote Ford's involvement in the film.

The supermini's quirky alternative

Auto facts

Model: Suzuki Jimny SZ4
Price: £13,725
Insurance group: 15D
Fuel consumption (Combined): 39.8mpg
Top speed: 87mph
Length: 367.5cm/144.7in
Width: 164.5cm/64.8in
Luggage capacity: Four cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 8.8 gallons/40 litres
CO2 emissions: 162g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

THE name of this little car is more than enough to let you know exactly what sort of mischievous motor this really is.

No vehicle that calls itself Jimny can afford to take itself too seriously.

And that's the ultimate charm of this car. While it is lumpy, bumpy and lively in both its ride and handling, it is an absolute hoot to drive.

Styled unashamedly as a little Jeep, the Jimny hops around city streets while retaining proper off-road capability.

Since it went on sale in 1998 it has built up a loyal following of people who enjoy a quirky alternative to a supermini. Its tough and capable reputation has seen more than 22,000 sold in the UK with many on their third or even fourth new Jimny.

Priced from just over £12,000 on the road, the Jimny is a simple offering. Two doors, four seats, a basic interior with lots of plastic, wafer-thin door bins and next to no storage space is the deal. Despite all those apparent drawbacks, the Jimny is just great fun.

Power comes from an all-alloy,



The Suzuki Jimny SZ4

16 valve, 1.3-litre engine which is available with either a manual or automatic transmission, delivering more than enough power to speed the Jimny up towards motorway speeds.

Not that motorway cruising is a particular forte of the Jimny, which is much happier at lower speeds. The Jimny also possesses surprising off-road ability, thanks to an electronic four-wheel-drive system that can switch from two- to four-wheel-drive and then into low-ratio at the touch of a dashboard button.

Last year, Suzuki marked the 44th anniversary of its 4x4 her-

itage by upgrading the Jimny, which includes a tyre pressure monitoring system for added safety, a gearshift indicator to help improve fuel consumption and an electronic stability control system as standard.

The SZ4 test model features new design dark silver 15-inch alloy wheels, synthetic leather seats, air conditioning, leather-trimmed steering wheel and rear privacy glass as standard.

Despite its jokey name and chirpy road manners, global sales of the Jimny total 2.8 million across 188 countries making it a serious success for Suzuki.

June showcase

Supercars and classics set to amaze

MILLIONS of pounds worth of classic cars and supercars are set to grace the lawns of Wilton House next month with the two-day event set to showcase some of the world's greatest cars.

Wilton Classic & Supercar with Castrol EDGE, in Salisbury, Wiltshire, on June 6/7 has already attracted a wide range of cars and motorcycles, which organiser Lord Pembroke said included almost every Bugatti model ever made.

There will also be the first public viewing of an Alfa Romeo Giulietta Zagato Prototype, which was discovered recently in the USA after 50 years and the Bloodhound Project car ahead of its world

record attempt later this year.

Supercars lined up to appear include a McLaren P1, La Ferrari, Porsche 918 Spyder, One-77 Aston Martin, a Veyron Pur Sang and a Veyron Super Sport WRC.

More than 500 cars and motorcycles are expected to be on display over the two-day event.

Saturday is dedicated to classic cars, with the Sunday focussing on supercars. Both days will offer visitors hundreds of cars to admire, a live restoration project, interactive stands, live music and a host of food and trade stands.

Event ambassador Tiff Needell will be on hand to host the daily parade interview sessions and talk

to visitors. He said: "This is a great event in the motoring calendar.

"It's a great excuse to spend two days surrounded by some amazing cars and bikes from rare old classics through to the very latest supercar technology."

There will be prizes for the best cars on display and the launch of a new category, the Concours d'Histoire, which recognises great stories behind some of the cars.

Lord Pembroke said: "We will have our Classic Car of the Show and Supercar of the Show trophies together with Spirit of Wilton but we have so many cars with great stories that we wanted to create a special award."

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